

**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
PROPOSED EXPANSION OF AGRICULTURAL LAND
ON THE FARMS WAVERLEY 380 AND GOU KYK 366
WOLSELEY
WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE**

Prepared for

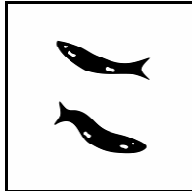
CEDERBERG ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTICE

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Executive summary

A Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of the proposed development of old agricultural lands on the Farms Waverley No. 380 and Gou Kyk No. 366 near Wolseley in the Western Cape has identified no significant impacts to pre-colonial archaeological material that will need to be mitigated prior to proposed development activities.

A few Early Stone Age and Middle Stone Age tools were found, but these occur in a disturbed context and have been rated as having low local significance.

A well-preserved San rock art site was recorded on the Farm Gou Kyk but the site is situated well outside the proposed development area.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and brief

Cederberg Environmental Assessment Practice, on behalf of DP and JP Goosen Boerdery (Edms) Bpk, requested the Agency for Cultural Resource Management to undertake an archaeological impact assessment of the proposed development of agricultural lands on the Farms Waverley No. 380 and Gou Kyk No. 366, near the town of Wolseley in the Western Cape Province.

The existing landholdings are already zoned for Agricultural use and rezoning of the affected property is therefore not required. The proposed development is a Black Economic Empowerment (BEE) initiative. 30 ha of land have been set aside for the planting of vines, fruit and olive trees. Water for irrigation will be via existing farm dams and pipelines. The affected lands were previously farmed for vines, cut flowers and potatoes, but have not been utilised for more than 10 years.

The aim of the study is to locate, identify and map archaeological heritage remains that may be negatively impacted by the implementation of the proposed project, and to propose measures to mitigate against the impact.

A Notification of Intent to Develop (NID) checklist has been completed by the archaeologist and submitted to Heritage Western Cape (Belcom) for comment.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The terms of reference for the archaeological study were:

- to determine whether there are likely to be any archaeological sites of significance within the proposed site;
- to identify and map any sites of archaeological significance within the proposed site;
- to assess the sensitivity and conservation significance of archaeological sites within the proposed site;
- to assess the status and significance of any impacts resulting from the proposed development, and
- to identify mitigatory measures to protect and maintain any valuable archaeological sites that may exist within the proposed site

3. THE STUDY SITE

A locality map is illustrated in Figure 1.

An aerial photograph of the study area indicating the proposed development area is illustrated in Figure 2.

The farms Waverley and Gou Kyk are located alongside (i.e. north of) the R46, about 5 kms north east of the small Boland town of Wolseley in the Western Cape. The affected landholdings (A, C, D, E and F) are located to the north of the railway line on steep south facing slopes that are completely covered in natural veld. Site D, alongside the railway is moderately flatter. As indicated, the subject property comprises old agricultural lands that have not been utilised for more than 10 years (Janus Goosen pers. comm.). There are no buildings or structures on the affected landholdings. The Breerivier River is situated about 1 km to the south of the farm. The surrounding land use comprises vineyards and fruit trees and wilderness area (Figures 3-10).

A GPS reading for the site is S 33° 24 50.1 E 19° 14 55.5 on map datum WGS84.

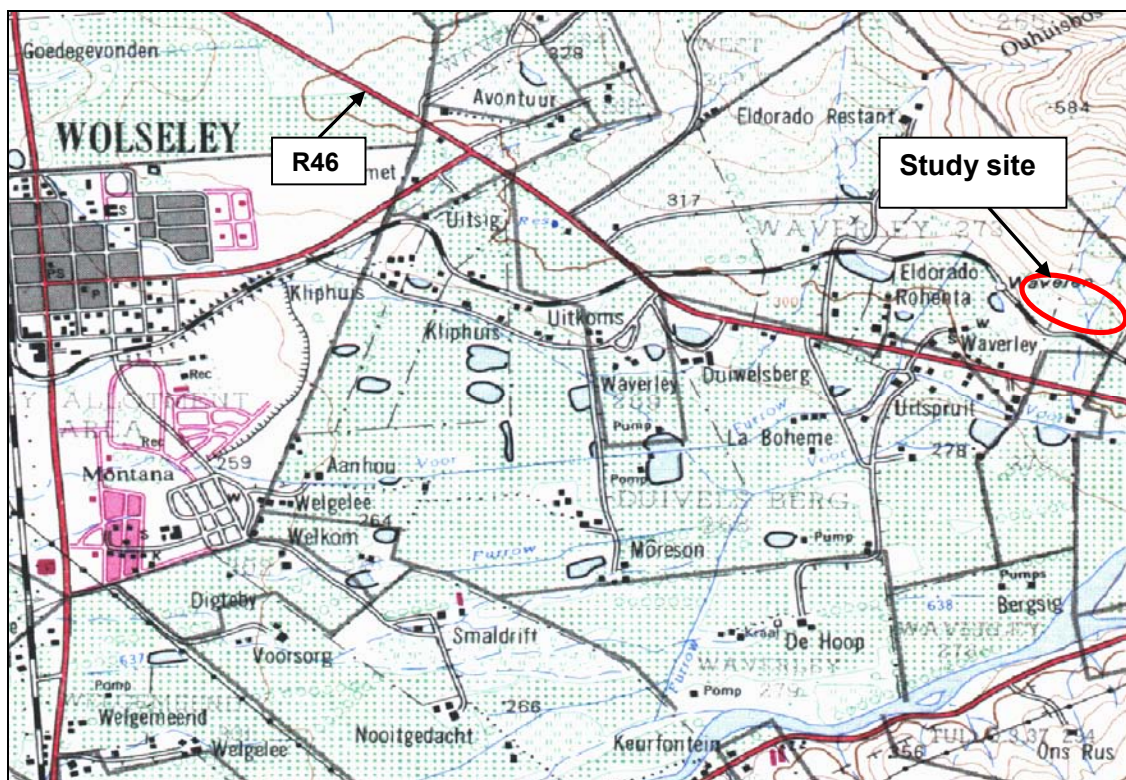


Figure 1. Locality Map (3319AC Tulbagh)

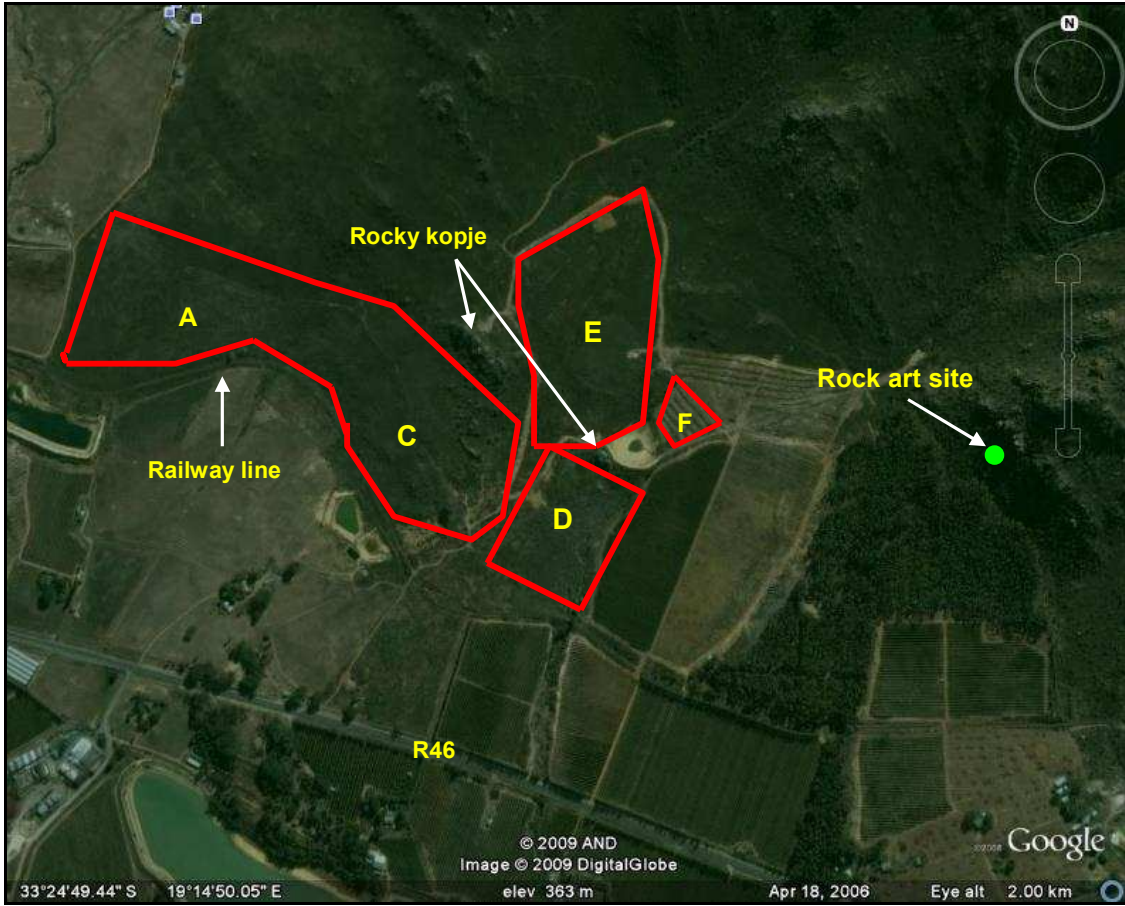


Figure 2. Aerial photograph of the study site

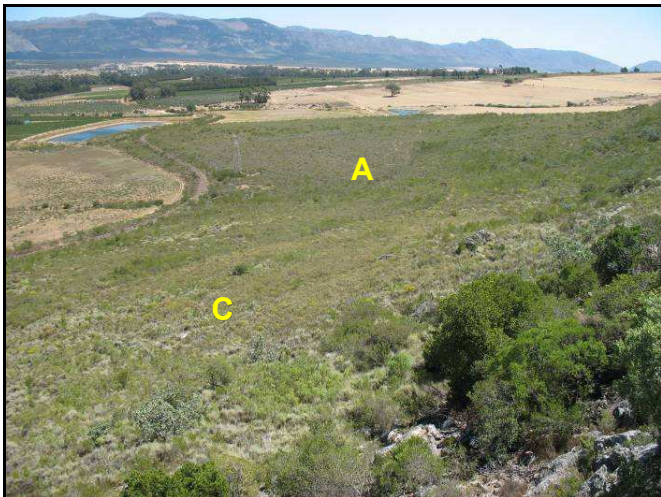


Figure 3. Site C and A. View facing west



Figure 4. Site A and C. View facing north east



Figure 5 Site C. View facing south.



Figure 8. Site E and F. View facing east



Figure 6. Site D. View facing south east



Figure 9. Site E. View facing north east



Figure 7. Site D. View facing south



Figure 10. Site D. View facing south west

4. APPROACH TO THE STUDY

4.1 Method of survey

The approach followed in the archaeological study entailed a ground survey of the proposed 30 ha development area. There are several rocky kopjes that lie just outside the boundary of the affected lands (refer to Figure 2), and these were also searched for archaeological sites such as rock paintings.

The site visit and assessment took place on the 15th of February, 2009.

4.2. Constraints and limitations

The affected lands are covered in thick natural veld, resulting in low archaeological visibility.

4.3 Potential risks

There are no archaeological risks associated with the proposed project. The properties are situated on steep south facing slopes, which have previously been planted with vineyards and potatoes. Cut flowers were also harvested on the mountain slopes.

5. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

5.1 The National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999)

The National Heritage Resources (NHR) Act requires that "...any development or other activity which will change the character of a site exceeding 5 000m², or the rezoning or change of land use of a site exceeding 10 000 m², requires an archaeological impact assessment"

The relevant sections of the Act are briefly outlined below.

5.2 Archaeology (Section 35 (4))

Section 35 (4) of the NHR stipulates that no person may, without a permit issued by HWC, destroy, damage, excavate, alter or remove from its original position, or collect, any archaeological material or object.

5.3 Burial grounds and graves (Section 36 (3))

Section 36 (3) of the NHR stipulates that no person may, without a permit issued by the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), destroy, damage, alter, exhume or remove from its original position or otherwise disturb any grave or burial ground older than 60 years, which is situated outside a formal cemetery administered by a local authority.

6. FINDINGS

One Early Stone Age (ESA) flake, one ESA chunk and one snapped/broken MSA flake were documented during the baseline study. Apart from the MSA flake which was found in an open clearing near the rocky kopje above Site C, the other tools were found in the gravel farm tracks that intersect the property. All the tools are in locally available quartzite. A few ESA flake tools were also noted in some gravel roads over the remainder of the property. No evidence of any factory or workshop site, or the result of any human settlement was identified.

The archaeological remains have been rated as having low local significance.

No rock painting sites were found among the rocky kopjes that lie just outside the boundary of the affected landholdings.

6.1 Other finds

A well preserved rock painting site was found, but this site occurs well outside the proposed development area (Figures 2 and 11). Facing south, south west, the site is situated on the very steep mountain slopes behind a large stand of mature Blue Gum trees. Access to the site is quite difficult but an informal trail marked by very faded blue paint leads one to the shelter. The paintings are situated at the base of the steep cliffs, in a cleft-shaped sandstone shelter (Figure 12). Apart from some minor vandalism, the paintings are reasonably well preserved and there are some exceptional images on the shelter wall. These comprise a so-called 'net scene' (Figure 13), paintings of a 'serpent' (Figure 14) and other enigmatic images (Figures 15 & 16). Superimposition of painting is also evident suggesting multiple visits to the site. The writer has observed several net scenes in the central Cederberg and Winterhoek Mountains while paintings of 'serpent' have also been documented in the hills around Ceres. There are other detailed images such as human figures, eland and various antelope species and possibly even elephant. No archaeological deposit occurs in the shelter, which is littered with sharp stone and rocks. A few MSA flakes and heat flake spall were found. No Later Stone Age tools were found. A GPS co-ordinate for the site is S 33° 24 50.1 E 19° 14 55.5.

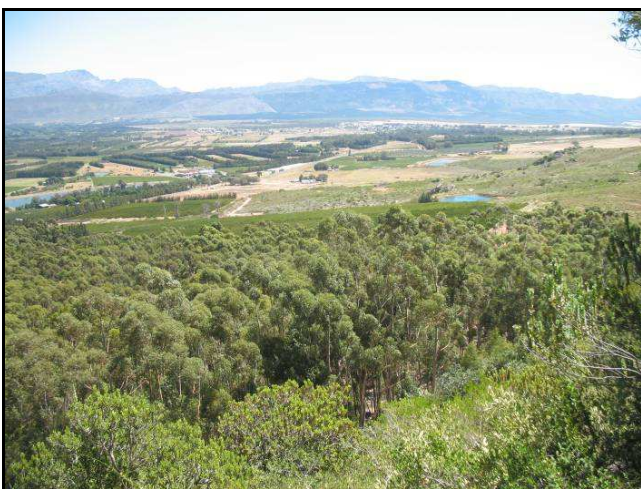


Figure 11. View of the site facing west toward Wolseley

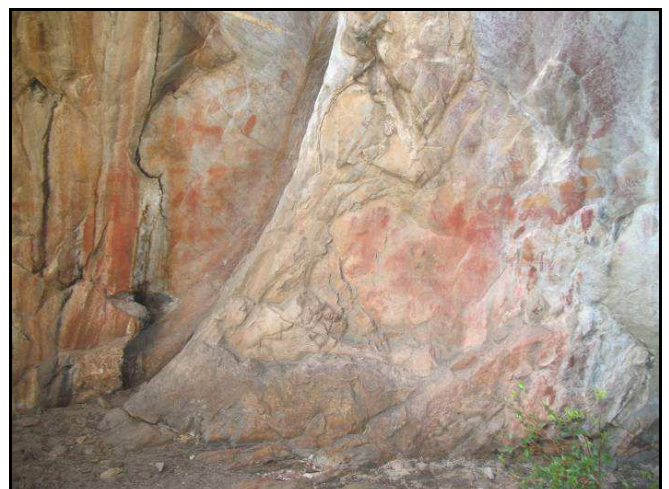


Figure 12. Inside rock shelter (north facing)



Figure 13. 'Net Scene' Scale is in cm



Figure 15. Scale in cm



Figure 16. Scale in cm

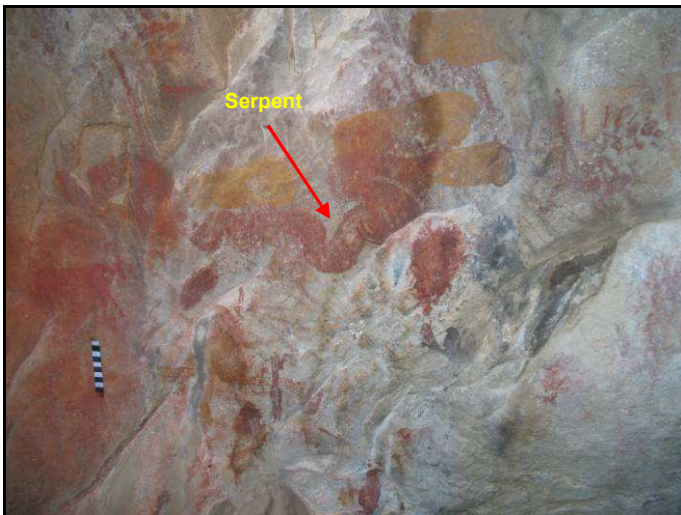


Figure 14. Painting of a serpent. Scale is in cm

7. IMPACT STATEMENT

The impact of the proposed project on archaeological heritage remains is likely to be **low**.

The probability of locating significant or important archaeological heritage remains during implementation of the project is likely to be improbable.

One rock painting site was documented during the study, but this site is located about 1 km north east from the proposed development area and will not be impacted in any way by the proposed activities.

8. CONCLUSION

The Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of the proposed development of existing agricultural lands on the Farms Waverley No. 380 and Gou Kyk No. 366 near Wolseley has identified no significant impacts to pre-colonial archaeological material that will need to be mitigated prior to proposed development activities.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendation is made:

- Should any unmarked human remains be disturbed, exposed or uncovered during preparation of the lands for agricultural activities, these must immediately be reported to Heritage Western Cape (Att: Mr Nick Wiltshire 021 483 9695) or the South African Heritage Resources Agency (Att: Dr A. Jerardino 021-462 4502).